Vol. IX. Numb. 31.

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Application made to Mr. Burgeſs, *and other Diſſenting Miniſters, to interceed for* Damare, *the Waterman, now under Condemnation, for the late Rebellious Tumults, and Burning Meeting-houſes,* &c. *On the Endeavours of the Faction to have the Preſent Houſe of Commons Diſſolv'd, by their Addreſſes,* &c.

From Saturday, April 29, to Wednesday, May 3. 1710.

Countrym. I Hear there's mighty Application made to Mr. *Burgeſs*, and other Diſſenting Miniſters, by ſome great Ladies, and others, that they would interceed for the Life of *Damare*, the Waterman, who is condemned for being a Ringleader in pulling down the Meeting-Houſes, *&c.* pray give me your Opinion of it, Mr. *Obſervator*; for I hear the Application is by People of ſeveral Sorts, and, as one would think, of different Intereſts, High-Church, Quakers, *&c.*

Obſ. Had the Injury and Affront concern'd none but Diſſenters, *Roger*, I ſhould have thought it very becoming them as Chriſtians, who are commanded to Bleſs thoſe that Curſe them, and to Pray for ſuch as Perſecute and Deſpitefully uſe them, to have join'd in a Requeſt to Her Majeſty for the Life of the poor Wretch, whoſe Blood ſignifies nothing to them; but as the Crime is of an higher Nature than any Thing that has happen'd of the Kind in our Age, and has been declar'd by the Queen in Her Proclamation to have been done in open Defiance of Her Regal Authority, by the Enemies of Her Crown and Dignity, to obſtruct the Courſe of Juſtice in Her High Court of Parliament, and ſince Both Houſes have declar'd the ſame, in my Opinion, *Roger*, the Matter is much too high for the Diſſenters to meddle with. 'Tis the Buſineſs of the Queen and Parliament, who have juſtly taken it to be a Rebellion againſt their Joint Authority; ſo that all I think the Diſſenters can do in the Caſe is to pray heartily to God that he would be pleaſed to forgive the Sin; but I don't ſee how they can interceed with the Queen in a Matter which She has declar'd to have been done againſt Her own Crown and Dignity, and wherein they themſelves were but Accidental Sufferers.

Countrym. I am perfectly of your Mind, Mr. *Obſervator*; and as they were ſo Prudent as to make no Reſiſtance to that Unjuſt Violence, nor to make any Application to the Queen or Parliament, either for a Compenſation of their Dammages, or for the Puniſhment of the Criminals, but left every Thing to the Wiſdom of the Legiſlature, and ordinary Courſe of Juſtice, I don't ſee why any Body can expect that they ſhould meddle with interceeding for a Pardon to thoſe who roſe in Rebellion, in open Defiance to the Juſtice of the Nation, when the Repreſentative Body of the Commons of *Great Britain* had charged an Offender with High Crimes and Miſdemeaners before Her Majeſty in Her higheſt Court of Judicature: But I hear that thoſe who make Application to the Diſſenting Miniſters ſay they are ſure *Damare* will not Die; and that the Diſſenters will loſe ſuch an Opportunity of acquiring Honour to themſelves, and their Cauſe, by ſuch an Interceſſion, as they can never expect again, if they don't lay hold of this, which would ingratiate them with the Church, and be a plain Proof of their Mild and Chriſtian Temper.

Obſ. You and I have not the Direction of the Diſſenters, *Roger*, they may do as they pleaſe; but they ought to conſider that Her Majeſty's Proclamation for ſeizing and bringing the Offenders to Juſtice was iſſued in Purſuance of the Addreſs of the Houſe of Commons; and whether it be proper for them to become Interceſſors where the Commons of *Great Britain* are Accuſers. Thoſe People might with as much Reaſon have made Application to the Diſſenters to intercede with the Commons not to have proceeded againſt Dr. *Sacheverell*, becauſe he damn'd them to the Pit as Schiſmaticks, and pleaded for their utter Extirpation out of the Iſland; but as that would have been altogether Irregular, and out of the Way, ſince he was charged with ſtriking at the Foundation of Her Majeſty's Title, with blackening the Revolution, and with libelling Her Majeſty's Government, as well as with damning the Toleration, 'tis the ſame here; and as they did not interpoſe in the one, there's no Reaſon they ſhould interpoſe in the other. The Proclamation took no Notice of the Burning of Meeting-houſes, but of breaking open by Force, and entering divers Houſes and Edifices belonging to the Subjects, becauſe Meeting-houſes are not included by Name in the Statutes againſt ſuch Practices; therefore as Her Majeſty and Her moſt Honourable Privy Council did Word the Proclamation ſo as it ſhould leave the Criminals no Subterfuge, I think the Diſſenters ought to be very cautious how they Interpoſe in ſuch a Matter, leſt they make themſelves liable to the Cenſure both of the Adminiſtration, and of the Houſe of Commons.

Countrym. Perhaps ſome People, who thus apply themſelves to the Diſſenters, had a Mind to bring them upon a Lock; for if they ſhould have interceded, then they would have us'd it as an Argument againſt them, that they meddled with Things that are far above them; nor is it improbable that they would have urged it as a Proof that they themſelves had a Hand in pulling down their own Meeting-houſes, in order to bring an *Odium* upon High-Church, as you know has been alledged both in Print, and at the Trial of Dr. *Sacheverell*; and now if they don't intercede, they will libel them through the Kingdom as Bloody and Implacable Men.

Obſ. 'Tis very probable ſuch an Uſe will be made of it, *Roger*, for there's no Fence againſt Malice: But as I have ſaid already, the Queen and Parliament having juſtly taken the Rebellion to have been deſign'd againſt themſelves, 'tis not in the Power of the Diſſenters to meddle with the Matter: Thoſe Perſons know well enough

that

that ſeveral, both of our Lords and Commons, were perſonally inſulted by the Rabble, in order to obſtruct the Courſe of Juſtice in the High Court of Parliament; therefore they ſhould have made Application to the Houſes while ſitting for an Indemnity, who were proper Judges whether it was neceſſary; but the Stomachs of the Faction were too high for that; they choſe rather to rabble and inſult them by their Mobs, as they do now by their Addreſſes, and give Her Majeſty and them too directly the Lie; for whereas Her Majeſty, by the Advice of Her moſt Honourable Privy-Council, and the Commons in their Addreſs, charge thoſe Rebellious Tumults upon Papiſts, Nonjurors, and other Enemies to Her Majeſty's Title and Government, the Faction in their Addreſſes charge thoſe Diſorders upon Republicans, and Perſons of Antimonarchical Principles; and in one of their Leading Addreſſes that's well enough known, they ſpeak of Daring and Inſolent Attacks made on our moſt Happy Conſtitution, and Her Majeſty's Royal Prerogative, by Republican Notions, &c, which if the Great Horſe could ſpeak, he would be aſham'd to explain as Somebody elſe did, of the Arguments made uſe of by the Managers of the Honourable Houſe of Commons againſt *Sacheverell*'s Doctrine of Paſſive-Obedience, for which perhaps they may ſome Time or other be called to an Account; and therefore we are not to wonder that the Faction ſhould endeavour to hinder the Aſſembling again of a Parliament whom they have ſo much inſulted.

Countrym. Ay, Maſter, but that's not all their Reaſon for having the preſent Houſe of Commons diſſolv'd; their Early Proviſion of Great and Effectual Supplies, which have enabled our Gallant General to make himſelf Maſter of the *French* Lines, to lay their Country under Contribution, to beſiege one of their Strong Towns, and to put them out of a Condition from being able to ſend over the Pretender with an Army to claim his Divine, Indefeaſible, and Hereditary, Right of Succeſſion, is the Principal Cauſe of their Malice againſt the preſent Houſe of Commons; they could not diſlodge them by their Rabbles, but they hope to blow them up by their Addreſſes. Could they be ſo Happy as to bring on an Election for a New one during the preſent Ferment, which they have rais'd with ſo much Malice and Induſtry, then they doubt not by the *Poſſe* of their High-Church to fill every County and Corporation in *England* with Rebellious Tumults; they might then compleat their Deſign of pulling down all the Meeting-houſes through the Nation, and under Pretence of meeting for Elections, aſſemble their Rebellious Mob of Papiſts, Nonjurors, and other Enemies to Her Majeſty's Title and Government. This would be an Effectual Way to make a Diverſion in Favour of the Common Enemy, who value themſelves ſo much upon thoſe Addreſſes in the *Paris Gazettes*; they would then falſly Trumpet it about, as that *Gazetteer* does, *That Her Majeſty's Speech from the Throne was Partial, in Favour of the Presbyterians*, and might raiſe ſuch Diſorders through the Iſland as would make it neceſſary to ſend more of our Troops from Beyond-Sea to ſuppreſs their Rebellion than were ſent to oppoſe the Pretender's Invaſion. I hope no Body will think this too ſevere, who conſiders the Characters of ſome of the pretended *Gloceſterſhire*, and other Addreſſers, and Rioters, and that ſeveral of 'em were Bound over for drinking the Pretender's Health, and wiſhing him Succeſs in *Scotland*, when he came to invade that Country; but more of theſe Things another Time, Mr.; this is more than enough to make the Faction hire Fellows to ſteal our Papers out of Coffee-houſes, and to threaten thoſe who promote the Publication of 'em.

*** Whereas Great Endeavours have been us'd by indirect Means to ſtifle this Paper, and to hinder the Sale of it, ſo that Publick-houſes and Gentlemen who wanted it could not have it, they may henceforward be ſupplied with it at the Bell in the Poultry, againſt Grocer's-Alley; T. Harriſon's, the Corner of Hercules's-Pillars-Alley, Royal-Exchange; and G. Gregg, next Door to Northumberland-houſe, near Charing-Croſs, Bookſellers.

Advertiſements.

Yeſterday was Publiſh'd,

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GEntlemen, who have any Thing to communicate to the Authors of this Paper, are deſir'd to direct it to be left with B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row, or Mr. Janeway, Poſt paid. Where Advertiſements are taken in, and theſe Papers are to be had Single, or in Volumes.

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